

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

ITEM

14

DECISION

TOPIC Chapter 52, Wildlife Refuges: Notice of Intended Action

The Commission is requested to approve this Notice to amend Chapter 52, Wildlife Refuges. Chapter 52 establishes state-owned lands and water under the jurisdiction of the department of natural resources as wildlife refuges or sanctuaries for the purpose of preserving the biological balance pursuant to the provisions of Iowa Code section 481A.39, and for the protection of public parks, public health, safety and welfare, and to effect sound wildlife management.

Four new areas are being added to the list of wildlife areas on which game refuges can be posted.

Crystal Hills WMA in Hancock County is being added so the dredge spoil site for the Crystal Lake dredging project, which is located on this property, can be closed to trespass during the fall. The dredge-spoil site attracts ducks and geese, which attracts waterfowl hunters. However it is very hazardous to try to retrieve birds dropped in the water on this site. This area is being closed to hunting for public safety reasons.

Ventura Marsh in Cerro Gordo County is being added for similar reasons. The Clear Lake dredge-spoil site will become part of the Ventura Marsh WMA complex when the dredging is completed, which should be this summer. This area could pose a hazard to hunters and their dogs, so it is being closed for public safety reasons.

A new tract of land encompassing Wood Lake was recently added to the Eagle Lake WMA. Wood Lake is a 50-acre wetland located on the southwest side of Eagle Lake. A meandered lake, it was traded away for some timber along the shore of Eagle Lake and drained sometime in the 1920s. When it is restored, it will be posted as a wildlife refuge to enhance waterfowl hunting on the Eagle Lake WMA.

Eagle Flats WMA is being developed as a moist soil management area with water pumping capabilities. This will greatly improve its waterfowl holding capacity. A portion of it will be posted as a refuge to compliment the refuge at Wood Lake and improve waterfowl hunting in the area.

Dr. Dale Garner, Wildlife Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
March 12, 2009

Attachment: Chapter 52, Wildlife Refuges: Notice of Intended Action

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION [571]
Notice of Intended Action

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code subsection 455A.5(6), the Natural Resource Commission hereby gives Notice of Intended Action to amend Chapter 52, "Wildlife Refuges," Iowa Administrative Code.

This amendment adds four areas to the list of areas upon which game refuges can be posted.

Any interested person may make written suggestions or comments on the proposed amendment on or before April 29, 2009. Written comments may be directed to the Wildlife Bureau's website at www.iowadnr.com or may be sent to the Wildlife Bureau Chief, Department of Natural Resources, Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034; fax (515)281-6794. Persons who wish to convey their views orally should contact the Wildlife Bureau at (515)281-5034 or at the Wildlife Bureau offices on the fourth floor of the Wallace State Office Building.

Also, there will be public hearings held at 18 locations via the Iowa Communications Network on April 29, 2009. Interested persons should contact the Department at (515)281-5034 for a list of hearing locations or go to the Department's website at www.iowadnr.com. At the hearings, persons may present their views either orally or in writing. Persons will be asked to give their names and addresses for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of the amendment.

Any persons who intend to attend the public hearing and have special requirements such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments should contact the Department of Natural Resources and advise of specific needs.

This amendment is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 481A.5, 481A.6, 481A.9 and 481A.39.

The following amendment is proposed.

Amend subrule 52.1(2), paragraph "a," as follows:

a. Restrictions. The following areas under the jurisdiction of the department of natural resources are established as game refuges where posted. It shall be unlawful to hunt, pursue, kill, trap, or take any wild animal, bird, or game on these areas at any time, and no one shall carry firearms thereon, except where and when specifically authorized by the department of natural resources. It shall also be unlawful to trespass in any manner on the following areas, where posted, between the dates of September 1 and January 31 of each year, both dates inclusive, except that department personnel and law enforcement officials may enter the area at any time in performance of their duties, and hunters, under the supervision of department staff, may enter when specifically authorized by the department of natural resources.

Area	County
Lake Icaria	Adams
Pool Slough Wildlife Area	Allamakee
Rathbun Area	Appanoose, Lucas, Wayne
Sedan Bottoms	Appanoose
Wildlife Exhibit Area	Boone
Sweet Marsh	Bremer
Big Marsh	Butler
South Twin Lake	Calhoun

Ventura Marsh	Cerro Gordo
Round Lake	Clay
Allen Green Refuge	Des Moines
Henderson	Dickinson
Jemmerson Slough Complex	Dickinson
Spring Run	Dickinson
Ingham Lake	Emmet
Forney Lake	Fremont
Riverton Area	Fremont
Dunbar Slough	Greene
Bays Branch	Guthrie
<u>Crystal Hills</u>	<u>Hancock</u>
<u>Eagle Flats</u>	<u>Hancock</u>
<u>Eagle Lake</u>	<u>Hancock</u>
Green Island Area	Jackson
Hawkeye Wildlife Area	Johnson
Muskrat Slough	Jones
Colyn Area	Lucas
Red Rock Area	Marion, Polk, Warren
Badger Lake	Monona
Tieville/Decatur Bend	Monona
Five Island Lake	Palo Alto
Big Creek-Saylorville Complex	Polk
Chichaqua Area	Polk
Smith Area	Pottawattamie
McCausland	Scott
Princeton Area	Scott
Prairie Rose Lake	Shelby
Otter Creek Marsh	Tama
Green Valley Lake	Union
Three Mile Lake	Union
Lake Sugema	Van Buren
Rice Lake Area	Winnebago
Snyder Lake	Woodbury
Elk Creek Marsh	Worth
Lake Cornelia	Wright

Date

Richard A. Leopold, Director